

with due diligence in investigating and prosecuting those responsible for these crimes; urges the Government of Guatemala to strengthen domestic violence laws and to provide adequate resources necessary to improve the integrity of the prosecutorial and judicial systems; urges the President and the Secretary of State to incorporate this issue into the bilateral agenda between the Governments of Guatemala and the United States; and encourages the Secretary of State to provide assistance in training and equipping special police units to investigate these crimes, implementing judicial reforms and rule of law programs, establishing a missing persons system, creating an effective witness protection program, and supporting efforts to enhance forensic capabilities.

Mr. President, I believe it is very important to give this issue the attention it deserves. Last year, the House of Representatives passed a similar measure, which was introduced by Congresswoman SOLIS. With passage of this resolution, I am very pleased that the Senate has spoken regarding the need to stop these senseless killings.

JOINT RESOLUTION DIS- APPROVING THE FCC MEDIA OWNERSHIP RULE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, on March 5, 2008, I introduced a joint resolution of disapproval stating that the December 18, 2007, vote by the Federal Communications Commission to loosen the ban on cross-ownership of newspapers and broadcast stations shall have no force or effect. I am joined by Senators SNOWE, KERRY, COLLINS, DODD, STEVENS, OBAMA, HARKIN, CLINTON, CANTWELL, BIDEN, REED, FEINSTEIN, SANDERS, TESTER, LEAHY, FEINGOLD, and BOXER. We seek with this resolution of disapproval to reverse the Federal Communications Commission's, FCC, fast march to ease media ownership rules.

The FCC has taken a series of destructive actions in the past two decades that I believe have undermined the public interest. On December 18, 2007, they took yet another step in the wrong direction. They gave a further green light to media concentration.

The FCC voted to allow cross-ownership of newspapers and broadcast stations in the top 20 markets, with loopholes for mergers outside of the top 20 markets. The newspapers would be allowed to buy stations ranked above fifth and above.

The rule change was framed as a modest compromise. But make no mistake, this is a big deal. As much as 44 percent of the population lives in the top 20 markets of the United States. When nearly half of the people in this country are told that in their cities and towns the media will get the thumbs up to consolidate, they will not be happy. And with the loopholes in the rule, the FCC spurs a new wave of media consolidation in both large and small media markets.

The last time the FCC tried to do this, the U.S. Senate voted to block it. On September 16, 2003, the Senate voted 55 to 40 to support a "resolution of disapproval" of the FCC's previous decision to further consolidate media. We warned Chairman Martin that if he rushed this vote we would have to use the resolution of disapproval again.

On December 4th the Commerce Committee reported out the bipartisan "Media Ownership Act of 2007," S. 2332 with 25 co-sponsors, requiring the FCC to give more time for public comment and study the issues of localism and diversity. The Chairman overlooked this bill.

On the day before the vote, 27 Senators sent them a letter in opposition to such a rushed vote on the rules. He went ahead anyway.

The FCC rushed towards a December 18th vote with a complete disregard for the process, let alone the substance of their ruling.

They rushed to finish the localism and ownership hearings with as little as 5 business days of notice before the last hearings.

The Chairman put out the proposed rule changes on November 13th in a New York Times op-ed—after the comment period had closed.

He then didn't give the public nearly enough opportunity to comment on the actual rule changes that were voted on. He gave the public just 28 days to comment on the proposed rules. While he likes to speak of giving 120 days and six hearings around the country, this was prior to the announcement of what rules would actually change. And he ignored the public testimony anyway.

This was hardly an open and deliberative process. It is a massive rush and a big mistake.

This rule will undercut localism and diversity of ownership around the country. Studies show that removing the ban on newspaper/broadcast cross-ownership results in a net loss in the amount of local news produced in the market as a whole. In addition, while the FCC suggests that cross-ownership is necessary to save failing newspapers, the publicly traded newspapers earn annual rates of return between 16 and 18 percent.

This Resolution of Disapproval will ensure this rule change has no effect. This is again a bipartisan effort to stop the FCC from destroying the local interests that we have always felt must be a part of broadcasting.

It is time to ensure that we first protect localism and diversity, which the FCC appears to have long forgotten. Only then can we really review the rules of media ownership in a thorough process to see if it is actually in the public interest to reverse any of those rules, or if greater public interest protections are necessary.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING JERRY BUTKIEWICZ

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Jerry Butkiewicz, a labor leader in San Diego who recently retired as secretary-treasurer of the San Diego Imperial Counties Labor Council. He has devoted the past 30 years to improving the quality of life for all people.

In 1975, Jerry Butkiewicz joined the American Postal Workers Union, APWU, in Phoenix, AZ. He became shop steward and within a few years rose to president of the local. Five years later, attracted by the beautiful weather in California, Jerry Butkiewicz and his family moved to Oceanside in San Diego where he continued to work for the U.S. Postal Service. Shortly after his arrival, he was elected president of the APWU in Oceanside. In 1981, the San Diego Imperial Counties Labor Council selected him as their liaison between organized labor and the United Way of San Diego County.

Elected secretary-treasurer in 1996, Jerry Butkiewicz led the Labor Council with compassion, practicality, and a tireless work ethic until January 2008. Over his 12 years as secretary-treasurer, he worked to grow and strengthen the labor movement in San Diego. Through his efforts, the Labor Council has improved the lives of countless San Diegans. Jerry was active in the San Diego Greater Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of San Diego, the San Diego Workforce Partnership, the Environmental Health Coalition, and the State Workforce Investment Board.

Jerry Butkiewicz has worked tirelessly to provide all Californians with a fair wage, affordable health care, and a safe working environment. His service to the working families of San Diego has been an invaluable contribution to all who live in San Diego and California.

I congratulate Jerry Butkiewicz on his retirement, and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAS TRAMPAS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the 50th anniversary of Las Trampas, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting adults with developmental disabilities located in Contra Costa County.

Founded in 1958 in Lafayette, CA, Las Trampas has grown to include four State-licensed group residential homes throughout Contra Costa County. Through the work of its staff, volunteers, and board of directors, Las Trampas actively assists adults with developmental disabilities to discover their capabilities so that they may live their lives as independently as possible.

Las Trampas is committed to helping each of its clients succeed in all aspects of daily living. It offers programs

that emphasize a life-long educational process, including self-advocacy skills, risk evaluation, emotion management, and clear communication skills. Two programs of note include the Adult Vocational Program and the Adult Development Program. The Adult Vocational Program provides employment services and skills development, and has helped many Las Trampas clients gain employment with local businesses. The Adult Development Program caters to small groups and highlights educational development in the areas of daily living tasks, communications, social interaction, and employment. Most importantly, Las Trampas works with every person to help them practice each of these skills in real life situations.

The support services and programs provided by Las Trampas offer those with developmental disabilities the opportunity to turn the dream of full inclusion in the community into a reality. I commend the Las Trampas staff and volunteers for their dedicated work in assisting adults with developmental disabilities lead fuller lives in their home, at work, and in the community.

I congratulate Las Trampas for its dedicated work on this special occasion, and I send my best wishes for many future successes over the next 50 years.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YWCA OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to recognize the 100th anniversary of the YWCA of San Diego County. On Tuesday, March 11, 2008, YWCA of San Diego County and community members will gather to celebrate this momentous occasion.

The YWCA is the largest and oldest multicultural women's organization in the world. The YWCA was formed in 1855 in London by Emma Roberts and Mrs. Arthur Kinnaid. The YWCA later expanded to the United States in 1858 in New York and Boston. Today it serves as the largest organization dedicated to empowering women and provide an important voice for women at local, state, and international levels. YWCA of San Diego County is one of 300 local associations in the United States.

YWCA of San Diego County was formally incorporated in 1908. For the past 100 years, YWCA has been a champion in the community on behalf of women and families who escape homelessness and domestic violence. The mission of YWCA "is to increase safety, promote healing, foster empowerment, and give hope to women and families through innovative programs" and services.

The dedication of the YWCA to its mission is displayed through the programs and services that the YWCA provides. These programs and services include residential programs like transitional housing and emergency shelter,

legal support, career assistance, counseling, and a telephone hotline. All of these programs are designed to support the needs of women and families coping with domestic violence and homelessness.

Through a variety of programs such as Becky's House emergency shelter the YWCA of San Diego County is able to offer confidential, transitional housing for victims of domestic violence and their children. Various services like, legal assistance and counseling is provided to the residents of the emergency shelter. After the residents complete a 30 day stay at the shelter they are given the opportunity to complete an 18-month residential program at Becky's House. This program provides legal assistance, educational and career counseling, case management, and educational and play activities for the children of the women in the program.

More than 70 percent of the 2,000 individuals the YWCA of San Diego County serve each year are able to obtain employment and permanent housing, so that the individual can sustain a secure, independent way of life.

YWCA of San Diego County has set a wonderful example of philanthropy, civic service, and altruism for the community at large. Organizations such as the YWCA should be recognized for the critical role they play in strengthening women and families in California and the United States of America. I salute the men and women of YWCA for their continuous commitment to the betterment of women and families in crisis and efforts to enrich the broader San Diego community.

I congratulate the YWCA of San Diego County on the celebration of its 100th anniversary. I wish them continued success.●

RECOGNIZING CHAFFEY COLLEGE ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chaffey College as it celebrates its 125th anniversary. Throughout the past 125 years, the students, faculty, staff, and community have worked diligently to make Chaffey College a hallmark institution of higher learning in southern California.

In March 1883, brothers and engineers George and William Chaffey donated land and established an endowment for a private college to provide quality education to the citrus growing communities between the cities of Los Angeles and San Bernardino. The Chaffey brothers envisioned access to higher education throughout southern California for a burgeoning population, which would soon be realized by the dynamic growth of the college. The private school was initially founded as the Chaffey College of Agriculture as part of the University of Southern California. A short time later the college had an enrollment of 100 students and began to receive joint funding through the local school district, allowing a period of dramatic growth to begin.

Since that time, Chaffey College has continued in its legacy of expansion, and it has taken great strides to provide increased opportunities for higher education throughout the region. It has developed satellite campus facilities in Ontario, Fontana and Chino. The education center in Chino is the only community college facility in California that is dedicated solely to information technology. And in May 2007, Chaffey College was able to dedicate six new buildings, including four science and technology buildings, the Don Berz Excellence Building, and the Kane Center for Student Services and Administration. Today, Chaffey College offers a wide variety of both academic and vocational education courses to over 18,000 students, helping an entire region of students throughout multiple communities find a competitive edge in the global marketplace.

As Chaffey College celebrates 125 years of growth and development in serving the communities of southern California, I am pleased to ask my colleagues to recognize its accomplishments. The success of our Nation and of future generations of Americans will be ensured by the continuing dedication and commitment of educational institutions such as Chaffey College.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. PATRICIA SANDERS

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, on the occasion of her retirement from the Department of Defense, I wish to recognize Dr. Patricia Sanders for her nearly 35 years of dedicated service to the security of our country. In her most recent assignment, she served as Executive Director at the Missile Defense Agency, where she advised the Director on issues related to the management and operations of one of the most dynamic organizations within the Department of Defense. Dr. Sanders has made an enormous contribution to the successful development and fielding of a defense to protect a nation, American troops deployed abroad, and our allies and friends from attack by ballistic missiles.

Dr. Sanders graduated as a National Science Foundation Fellow from Wayne State University in 1972 with a doctorate in mathematics, where she also was educated in economics, organizational management, and other disciplines. She went on to hold several university faculty positions. It is to our great benefit, though, that Dr. Sanders decided to pursue a career in government.

Her service within the Department of Defense as a member of the test and evaluation community has been extensive. Prior positions in the Office of the Secretary of Defense included serving as the Director of Land Forces in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Program Analysis and Evaluation and as Staff Specialist for the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation. Dr. Sanders served as Deputy